

wherein the chimeric polypeptide exhibits increased biological activity relative to at least one of the heterologous peptide sequences itself.

90. (New) The nucleic acid of claim 89, wherein B and C comprise identical sequences.

91. (New) The nucleic acid of claim 89, wherein B and C comprise fragments of a single protein.

92. (New) The nucleic acid of claim 89, wherein B and C comprise fragments of two different proteins.

The claims presented above incorporate changes as indicated by the marked-up versions below.

28. (Amended) A nucleic acid encoding [the] a chimeric polypeptide [of claim 1, 2, or 3] comprising serum albumin protein (SA) having a biologically active heterologous peptide sequence inserted therein, wherein the chimeric polypeptide exhibits increased biological activity relative to the heterologous peptide sequence itself.

29. (Amended) A delivery vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 28, 54, or 55.

31. (Amended) The delivery vector of claim 30, wherein said virus or retrovirus is selected from [the group consisting of] adenoviruses, adeno-associated viruses, herpes simplex viruses, human immunodeficiency viruses, or vaccinia viruses.

33. (Amended) The transfected cells of claim 32, wherein the cells are selected from [the group consisting of] blood cells, skeletal muscle cells, stem cells, skin cells, liver cells, secretory gland cells, hematopoietic cells, [and] or marrow cells.

REMARKS

Pursuant to the result of a telephone conversation with the Examiner, Applicants hereby confirm the election, with traverse, of Group II claims (including claims 28-33 and the newly added claims 54-92) directed to a nucleic acid, vector, and transfected cell.

Applicants have amended claims 28, 29, 31, and 33, and have added new claims 54-92. Applicants submit that these claims all belong to Group II. Claims 54 and 55 result from rewriting claim 28 into independent form, and are supported by original claims 1-3 and 28 and the specification as filed. The new claims 54-92 are supported by original claims 2-27, 39-46, and 49-53 and the specification as filed. Applicants submit that all the new claims belong to the elected Group II, directed to a nucleic acid, vector, and transfected cell.

Groups III, IV and V have only 6 claims directed to use of products claimed in Groups I, II, and VI. Applicants submit that there is no significant additional burden on the Examiner to search these Groups with the others, and therefore reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement are respectfully requested.

The Examiner may address any questions raised by this submission to the undersigned at 617-951-7000. Should an extension of time be required, Applicants hereby petition for same and request that the extension fee and any other fee required for timely consideration of this submission be charged to **Deposit Account No. 18-1945**.

Respectfully Submitted,

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